

WHO KEEPS ON PUTTING THE "HIGH" IN THE HIGH COST OF LIVING?

The price of living is rising higher. At first this may not seem to be strictly a new remark—it's been heard too often—but whether new or not, it is true.

As a matter of fact, this living problem begins to look to the ultimate consumer like an eternal poker game. Such as his royal highness, M. Satan Beelzebub, might provide for his guests in the lower regions. Someone is always raising the poor consumer to the limit and he is not getting very good hands, either.

The worst of it is that the sociologists hold forth no hope of lower prices. They say that since the world began prices have constantly gone up, but there is never an instance in history where they actually declined—unless something took most of the money in the world out of circulation.

Some say the tariff will bring the price of living down. Others say that if it does something will operate to take away all our spare cash so that even if the prices are low we can't avail ourselves of them. The currency bill is our only hope. It may provide plenty of cash to take advantage of existing prices, according to sociologists.

So let every player in the big poker game until his right shoe lace, walk thrice around his chair, and pray for the success of the currency bill. If it succeeds he may get a chance to outbet the mighty power which has been raising him for so many years.

Even in the last year there was an uncomfortable jump in prices of things. Bacon, for instance, behaved unaccountably. It advanced 16.2 per cent just since June 15, 1912. This means exactly 10 cents more per pound on the retail price—or did on some the writer purchased not long ago.

Smoked ham has gone up 14.1 per cent. The effect of this in price is not so noticeable, except that many restaurants now ask 10 cents for the luncheon staple where they were once satisfied with 5.

Pork chops, ignoring all the superstition about pork not being good in summer, went up 13.4 per cent. Nobody wants much pork in summer time, but they went up anyhow.

Chickens and eggs both advanced, the former 11.8 and the latter 11.7 per cent during the year. Round

steak advanced 10.1 per cent. Sirloin steaks, lard, rib roast, butter, milk, potatoes, sugar, wheat flour and cornmeal all advanced from 3 to 40 per cent.

On New Year's day of 1912 a good many people said: "May your shadow never grow less." If they meant the year—it didn't. The shadow of 1912 is large and black over former price lists and the brow of the ultimate consumer has become deeply corrugated from trying to squint through the blackness.

Who Would Want to Live 100 Years?

There are several estimable old gentlemen in our esteemed midst who brag of having attained the age of one hundred years or more. Who would want to live one hundred years with prices jumping at this rate every year?

Worse. Look at the figures for 1912 as compared with the ten years from 1890 to 1900. Bacon has doubled its price and gone a quarter as much again higher—128.5 per cent.

Pork chops advanced 111 per cent. Round steak a little more than doubled its price. Smoked ham advanced 84 per cent, with chickens close behind at 78.8 per cent.

Sirloin steak and rib roast cost just three-quarters as much again as they did after the Spanish War. Not that the Spanish War had a great deal to do with it, but it marks a convenient stopping place for the last century. Then, too, it brings memories of General Sherman's remark in favor of universal peace and makes the consumer of high priced commodities think that living might come in the same class as war—under these prices.

Lard, cornmeal, potatoes, butter, eggs, milk and flour all advanced from 65 to 28 per cent.

Sugar is the only commodity which has not advanced. It has gone back 8 per cent. The probable reason for this is that the refineries have found how to make crushed rock taste just like sugar and cost less to manufacture. This would make sugar one of the triumphs of modern civilization. From a mere foodstuff it would rise to the dignity of an invention.

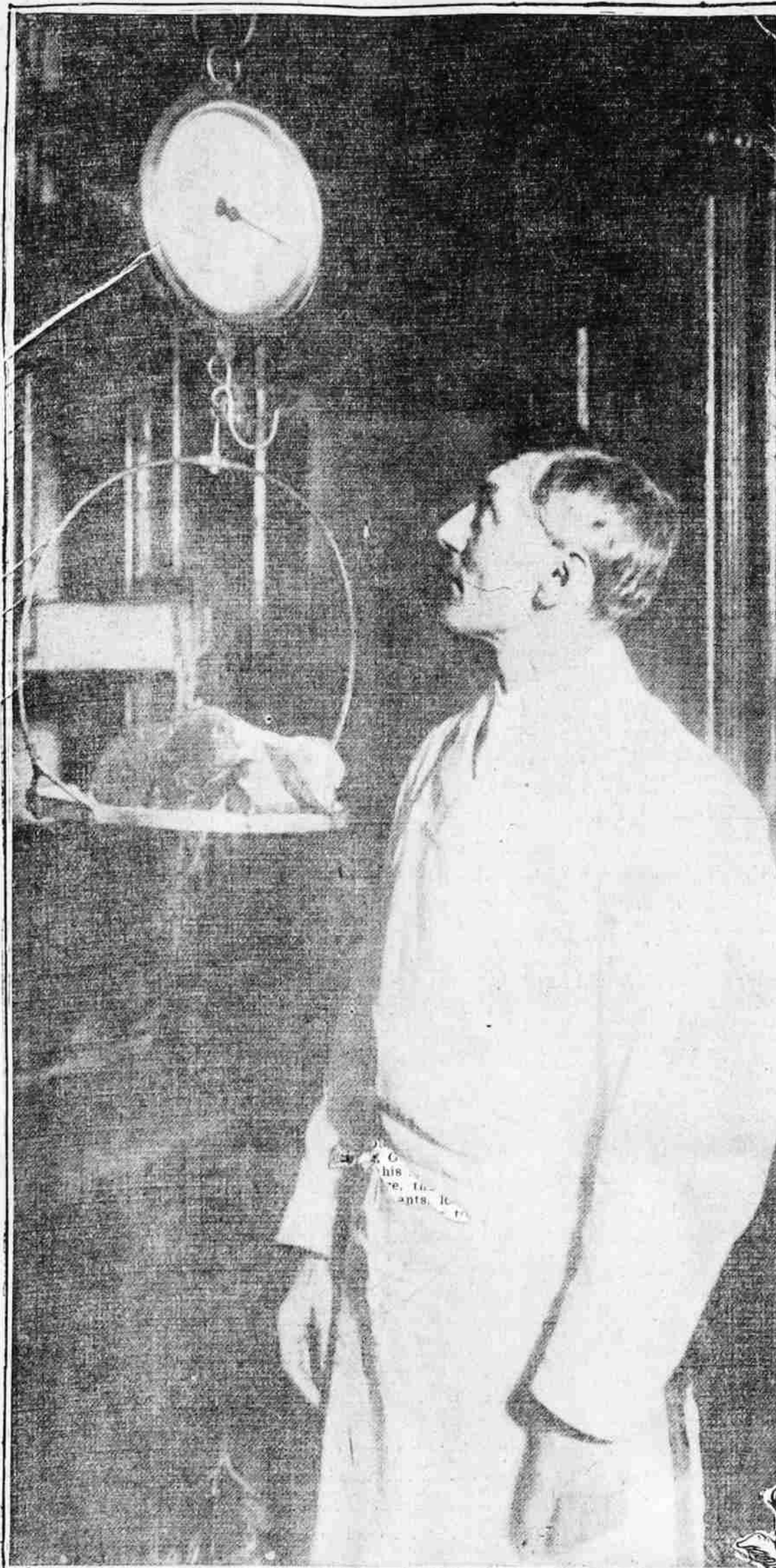
The Federal Government recently issued these statistics. It winds up with a statement that retail prices were at a higher level on June 15 of this year than for any other time in the past twenty-three years. And yet General Sherman complained about war!

The prices on June 15 were just half as much again as their highest figure in the ten years from 1890 to 1900. They were 3.3 per cent higher than on the same day in 1912 and 14.4 per cent higher than on June 15, 1911.

How Much More Is Coming to Us?

It is tempting to insert here the phrase so popular among rural philosophers: "Wot are we a-comin' to?" Perhaps it would be better to change it and say: "How much more is a comin' to us?" We've got all we can stand now.

Of course, there is some hope that Argentine beef may help out the steak schedules. If it doesn't



In Ten Years, Despite Every Effort to Reduce and Retrench on Household Expenses, the Man of Family Has Had to Pay an Increase of 111 Per Cent for Pork Chops, 40.8 Per Cent for Milk, and 41.3 Per Cent for Butter.

represents the whole country. The comparison is not really fair, yet food prices throughout the country do not fall far below those quoted in the government tables.

Often in smaller towns the prices on such commodities as bacon and ham, butter and eggs, are higher, considering the quality of foodstuffs sold, than in the big cities, where every effort is made to supply consumers with good things.

Nation Is Facing a Serious Problem.

Whatever the cause of the cost of living, whether it is the cost of high living or the high cost of low living or not, the country is facing a serious problem. (See all Senate speeches on all subjects.)

The country is always facing a serious problem of some sort or other, and usually it has to work its way out of the difficulty by slow and laborious steps. Constant rise in prices creates paupers, and makes the most acute human misery.

Something must be done. In forty big cities the actual figures cry out for a change, and in the smaller places the grumbling of

the consumers is always to be heard.

A great many are depending a great deal on the coming congressional legislation to lower the high cost of living, but many experts do not think it will make any great change. Once prices are set, it is hard to alter them, unless some violent change, such as a panic, takes place.

The main hope is the circulation of more currency. Salaries must go up and outdistance the living cost. American capital is in too few hands and a great deal of it is retired from circulation.

A change in this respect might make things easier, provided it was accompanied by mild measures in other directions.

The problem is too involved to decide off hand. The very plans to relieve the situation may become boomerangs when put in practice. The currency bill may bring on the worst panic in years—the tariff may shatter business conditions, but all the time the unseen bettor is raising the stakes in the cost of living game and the consumer is compelled to join in the hopeless cry: "Wot are we a-comin' to?"

SOCIETY WOMEN AS ATHLETES

The two best known athletic girls in Boston society!

Such is the title accorded Miss Eleonora Sears and Miss Dorothy Forbes, whose fame this summer is the talk of the fashionable summer colonies scattered along the coast from Newport to Bar Harbor.

And just which is the better athlete in an all-round sense is the question just now debated with no end of interest.

On the north shore, at Pride's Crossing in particular, Miss Sears has startled the society people by her daring stunts, some of which totally eclipse any of her previously chronicled stunts.

At Bar Harbor Miss Forbes has many admirers of her riding and automobile driving, which is no less than spectacular.

At Newport where both Miss Forbes and Miss Sears have been frequent visitors both have won the admiration of the summer colony as each has a loyal following of ardent supporters.

Miss Sears goes in for those sports which are generally regarded as within the power of men only and she shows a dash of spirit of hardihood. Miss Forbes has a touch of the feminine in her preference for athletics, al-

believe in the conventional this year any more than she ever did.

Society will never forget how Miss Eleonora rode downtown from the Back Bay on an ice wagon, and summer residents at Pride's Crossing say that she is as original this year as ever in her daily adventures.

If she rides she dispenses, of course, with shoes and stockings and a skirt that all but touches the ground. Nor is she bothered by the conventional skirt; she cast that aside long ago.

There is no question that she is the leader of the athletic set at Pride's Crossing, and, in fact, all along the north shore.

But at Bar Harbor, Me., she has a worthy rival in Miss Forbes, her chum of many years.

Miss Forbes, always a favorite in Boston, has won the admiration of the colony at the Maine resort. Hardly a day passes but that she appears on some one of her fine string of horses, but she always rides side-saddle, in contrast to Miss Sears.

As an automobilist, Miss Forbes is probably one of the best known women drivers in this section of the country, but not because of daring "stunts" such as those of Miss Sears.

At many horse shows she has won prizes with her wonderful string of entries, and like her rival for athletic honors she stands in the forefront always.

Of course, there is a marked difference in the way these two young women vie for the favor of their friends. Miss Sears has gone into every known sport with the idea of enjoying it, and she has succeeded to the limit of her capacities.

To do this she has caught the public eye, because she insists it is utterly folly for a girl to try to play tennis in a skirt that all but touches the ground. Nor has she hesitated to put on man's polo attire and appear on the field ready to play with the stars of the male sex.

When she appears in a tennis match at Pride's Crossing or Manchester-by-the-Sea, or anywhere else along the north shore, it is always in bloomers that will not hinder her play.

There was a time when society matrons would have frowned upon this sort of thing, but since Miss Eleonora let them understand that if they were to draw the line on the unconventional they could draw it away from her they have not bothered this fair young devotee of outdoor sports.

They also like the attitude that their favorite takes in anything of this sort. Moreover, by way of a ringing declaration of independence, she says:

"The busy-bodies who have referred to my riding breeches, creating the impression that they are trousers, mislead, and I shall continue to wear them because they are comfortable."

"Because my attire happens to be masculine in character is no fault of mine. Free movement of the limbs is necessary and demands certain concessions in attire. My clothes are made for convenience."

"I defy any woman to dress in the thoroughly conventional clothes and exercise properly."

This spirit of independence that has characterized this popular girl has doubtless added to her favor. Here is one society woman's brief description of her:

"Here is a German neatness of attire combined with a French originality and an American charm."

But while Miss Sears is amusing herself on the north shore, her fiercest rival, Miss Forbes, is enjoying in full measure every minute of her time spent at Lakesboro and Bar Harbor.

Strange Fortunes of Paintings

If Raphael could know that a picture which he painted for £50 had been purchased for £75,000, he would, no doubt, feel sorry that he died so soon. And if Sir Henry Raeburn had foreseen that a quiet portrait of a lady which he painted for a very modest remuneration would fetch 21,200 guineas at auction, he would scarcely have believed it possible.

Yet there have been cases of artists living to see their pictures bring marvellous prices, the most outstanding case in the history of art being the fact that the French artist Degas was actually present in the auction room in Paris when, after a scene of excitement which could only be matched on the racecourse, a picture of his which had sold many years before for £20 was actually knocked down for £19,100.

M. Degas, who is almost forgotten by fashionable Paris, lives a retired life in a fifth floor flat without a single picture or statuette to recall his early talents and future fame. This is likely to remain a record for a long time. But there are other artists who have had similar triumphs. At the Royal Holloway College, for instance, hangs a well-known picture by the late Edwin Long, R. C., entitled "The Babylonian Marriage Market," for which the artist, who had originally sold it for £500, heard 6,300 guineas bid!

Yet Edwin Long had the opposite experience of seeing several pictures, for which he had been paid large sums, go in the auction room for a few pounds.

Sir John F. Millais, whose pictures "Sir Isumbras at the Ford" has just fetched 7,800 guineas, lived to see his "Over the Hills and Far Away" sold for 5,000 guineas, probably ten times its original price, and the late Alma Tadema, R. A., saw many of his pictures draw big bids, the climax being reached when "A Reading From Homer" realized upwards of £5,000!

A year or two since Herkimer's famous canvas "The Last Muster," brought 3,100 guineas.

The ups and downs of the artist's calling are well illustrated by the fortunes and misfortunes of M. Sukhorovsky, a Russian artist who died recently.

His celebrated painting, "Nana," was exhibited all over the world and made a fortune for himself and others. After personally receiving some £50,000 for its exhibition the artist, thinking its vogue over, sold "Nana" for £4,200 and the dealer resold it at double the price.

But that is not all. An American bought it and showed it all through the States, Canada and South America, and is reported to have made £200,000 by the enterprise. On the other hand the artist lost all his money by unfortunate investments and was reduced almost to beggary. When he painted "Nana's Daughter," which he hoped would rehabilitate him, he had not the wherewithal to purchase the canvas, and had to be helped by a public subscription!



THE FOODS WHICH KEEP ON AVIATING

Bacon	Pork Chops
Round Steak	Smoked Ham
Chicken	Sirloin Steak
Rib Roast	Lard
Corn Meal	Potatoes
Butter	Eggs
Milk	Flour

beef were shipped in to the United States and present indications make it appear that more than 8,000,000 pounds will be received this year.

This should do a great deal to lower the prices in the sea coast towns and should give fresher and cheaper beef to the inland cities.

In spite of the high prices the ultimate consumer does not seem to stint himself on luxuries. He spent \$157,542,000 for the privilege of drinking whisky and \$65,246,000 for the revenue on drinking other liquors during the year ending June 30, 1913. Of course, this extravagance may be pardoned by saying the high price of other foods drove him to it, but even then—just think—a total of 65,246,000 barrels of whisky was consumed and in addition 2,087,872,000 gallons of beer.

Many and many an ultimate consumer could solve the problem of

they paid for the material smoked or limbed. The sum mentioned was the revenue tax alone.

All of that money was wasted. For every cent squandered there must be a reaction somewhere. American wastefulness probably has more to do with high food prices than can be imagined. Just how much will be seen when the new tariff and the currency bill are in effect. If they fail to alleviate conditions then it is the people and not the laws which may be at fault.

It was certainly a strange fact that the year which brought the highest prices of the last quarter century should bring the highest revenue tax on luxuries, too. A sermon may not appeal, a moral may be uninteresting, but a fact—like the above—is startling.

The food prices were compiled from the market lists in forty great cities. The revenue, of course,

though she, too, is an exponent of many sports heretofore classed as essentially masculine.

That Miss Sears has invaded the field once reserved for man is certain, for more than ever she is qualifying this summer as an expert horseback rider, polo player, aviator, swimmer, sailor, walker, tennis star, golfer, baseball enthusiast and motor racer.

And besides all this, she does not